

TESTIMONY

GM555

HTH
Confirmation Hearing
03-12-2012

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



LORETTA J. FUDDY, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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In reply, please refer to:
File:

Senate Committee on Health

G.M. 553, G.M. 555, G.M. 556 & G.M. 594, Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the State Council on Mental Health, gubernatorial Nominees, SANDRA SIMMS, CHAD KOYANAGI, M.D., HAAHEO MANSFIELD and TYRA DU BOSE.

**Testimony of Loretta J. Fuddy, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.
Director of Health
March 12, 2012**

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health strongly supports the nomination of Sandra Simms
2 (6/30/2014), Chad Koyanagi, M.D. (6/30/2016), Haaheo Mansfield (6/30/2016), and Tyra Du Bose
3 (6/30/2016) to serve on the State Council on Mental Health (SCMH) for terms to expire as
4 parenthetically indicated.

5 **Fiscal Implications:** None.

6 **Purpose and Justification:** To confirm the appointments of Sandra Simms, Chad Koyanagi M.D,
7 Haaheo Mansfield and Tyra Du Bose to serve on the SCMH.

8 The SCMH appointees represent the federal mandated positions under Public Law 102-321,
9 Section 1914(c) representing the provider, vocational rehabilitation, and families of adults or families of
10 children with emotional disturbance segments of the community.

11 **Sandra Simms** is a retired judge, who served in the District Court from November 1991, then
12 appointed to the First Circuit Court in 1994 and later retired from the bench June 1, 2004. During her
13 tenure on the bench, Judge Simms presided over high profile cases, as well as cases involving domestic
14 violence, restraining orders, civil proceedings and felony jury trials. Judge Simms has given numerous

1 presentations to assist a variety of community organizations, schools and forums to better understand the
2 judicial system. Currently, she is a member of the National Bar Association and serves on the Hawai`i
3 State Board of Bar Examiners, which writes and administers the Bar exam for attorneys who want to
4 practice law in the State of Hawai`i.

5 Judge Simms is also well known throughout Hawai`i, not only for her legal counsel experience,
6 but also for her community involvement. For six years, she served on Neighborhood Board #25 (1983-
7 1990), and on various public school committees. She is the president of the Soroptimist International of
8 Waikiki, Vice President of the Board of Directors for Mental Health America and a member of the
9 Hawai`i Chapter of The Links, Incorporated. Judge Simms brings a wealth of knowledge and
10 experience in the areas of mental health, substance abuse, and the legal system to the SCMh.

11 **Dr. Chad Koyanagi** is the Assistant Professor at the John A. Burns School of Medicine,
12 Department of Psychiatry, University of Hawai`i at Manoa. He also works as the Medical Director of
13 the Queen's Hospital, Kekela Unit, Psychiatrist of the Pacific Survivor Center for victims of Torture and
14 Human Trafficking, as a psychiatrist for the Department of Public Safety, is a provider of rural mental
15 health services on Moloka`i and Maui, and advocates for the needs of individuals with severe and
16 persistent mental illness. Dr. Koyanagi's experience in teaching and training in the field of psychiatry
17 will be an asset in developing innovative solutions to the mental health needs of our communities locally
18 as well as in rural Hawai`i.

19 **Haaheo Mansfield** is the Vice President of Programs, Parents and Children Together (PACT)
20 and has been working at PACT for over 23 years, of which, 16 of those years has been as a senior
21 executive. Her 26-year career has been primarily in the field of social services coupled with various
22 community volunteer activities in Hawai`i. In 2010, Governor Lingle appointed Ms. Mansfield to the
SCMH, but during the transition to the new Administration, her name was inadvertently not submitted

1 for confirmation during the 2010 Legislature. During her tenure, Ms. Mansfield was instrumental in
2 working with the Council in carrying out its mission. The Council found Ms. Mansfield to be a hard
3 worker and an excellent team player, who is able to quickly get to the core of issues and creatively come
4 up with practical solutions. As a member of the SCMH, her attributes and abilities will continue to
5 make a positive impact and meaningful contributions to the people living with mental illness.

6 **Tyra Du Bose** is a resident of Hawai'i all her life, and now resides in Lana'i city. Although
7 Ms. Du Bose works in the Hawai'i Families as Allies program, her tenure on the SCMH will be in the
8 capacity of a family member of a youth with emotional disturbance. She is the mother of three children,
9 one of whom has special needs. Ms. Du Bose also represents the island of Lana'i, which will assist the
10 SCMH to better understand the needs of individuals living with mental illness in this rural locale.

11 Through social media, Ms. Du Bose has been able to educate her peers, collaborate with teachers, and
12 network with parents of children with special needs in her community. She has been an inspiration on
13 Lana'i and is enthusiastic about promoting awareness of mental illness and other disabilities in her
14 community through workshops, support groups and trainings.

15 We respectfully request your favorable consideration in confirming the appointments of Sandra
16 Simms, Chad Koyanagi, M.D., Haaheo Mansfield and Tyra Du Bose to the State Council on Mental
17 Health.

18 Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of these appointments.



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March 9, 2012

To: Sen. Josh Green, Chair, and Clarence Nishihara, Vice Chair, and members, Senate Health Committee

RE: Confirmation of Nominee Dr. Chad Koyanagi to the State Council on Mental Health, GM555.

As Executive Director of Mental Health America, I strongly support the confirmation of Dr. Koyanagi to the State Council on Mental Health.

In addition to being Vice President for Policy of MHA's Board of Directors since 2007, Dr. Koyanagi is also Medical Director of Kekela, the inpatient psychiatric unit of Queens Hospital; is a consultant to I.H.S. , working with homeless mentally ill; is a consultant to OCCC, working with mentally ill inmates; travels to Molokai to provide psychiatric services there; and is Assistant Chief of Psychiatry, Queens Medical Center where he trains numerous residents and interns.

He works with those most vulnerable of the mentally ill – the most acutely ill and disadvantaged, those who have fallen through the cracks and require extra focus and expertise. He does this with tremendous compassion and dedication. Because of his intimate, hands-on knowledge of these populations, he will be an invaluable contributor to the State Council on Mental Health.

I urge you to pass his nomination.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide you with this testimony.

With Aloha,

Marya Grambs,
 Executive Director